

## Message Text

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62

ORIGIN EB-07

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DRAFTED BY: EB:NLPZDRAL

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R 280252Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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PARIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

LONDON FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ

FOLLOWING REPEATS ROME 9196 ACTION DEPT DACCA JUNE 26TH

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 9196

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC

SUBJECT: UNDERSECRETARY'S TALK WITH MINISTER OF FOOD AND  
CIVIL SUPPLIES OF BANGLADESH

1. BANGLADESH MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES, ABDUL  
MOMIN, REQUESTED MEETING JUNE 25 WITH UNDERSECRETARY ROBIN-  
SON TO DISCUSS FOOD AID.

2. MOMIN OPENED DISCUSSION BY THANKING UNITED STATES FOR  
GENEROUS FOOD AID PROGRAM AND SUPPORT FOR BANGLADESH. HE  
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THEN TURNED TO PROBLEMS HIS COUNTRY FACES IN INCREASING FOOD  
PRODUCTION, PARTICULARLY DUE TO RECURRENT FLOODS. HE STRESSED  
IMPORTANCE OF FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMS, WHICH NOT ONLY GET FOOD  
TO HUNGRY PEOPLE BUT ALSO CAN BE USED TO BUILD IRRIGATION

SYSTEMS AND ASSIST IN FLOOD CONTROL. HE MADE NO SPECIFIC REQUEST BUT ASKED THAT THE U.S. SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDER SUCH PROGRAMS IN THE FUTURE.

3. MR. ROBINSON REAFFIRMED THE INTEREST OF THE U.S. IN BANGLADESH AND STATED THAT WE WERE HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASSIST THEM WITH FOOD AID LAST YEAR AND THAT WE PLANNED A SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAM IN 1976. HE STATED THAT WE WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN EFFORTS OF BANGLADESH TO INCREASE THEIR OWN PRODUCTION, SINCE FOOD AID CAN ONLY BE AN INTERIM MEASURE. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD REPORT THIS CONVERSATION AND GOB'S PARTICULAR INTEREST IN FOOD FOR WORK.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING, BANGLADESH FAO PERM REP AHMED GAVE FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT REQUEST. HE STATED IN LAST DRY SEASON (NOVEMBER 1974 TO MAY 1975) GOB USED 150,000 TONS FOR FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM, INCLUDING 25,000 TONS FROM WFP AND BALANCE FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID SOURCES INCLUDING TITLE I, AND COMMERCIAL PURCHASES. THEY WISH TO EXPAND PROGRAM TO 400-500,000 TONS FOR 1975/76 DRY SEASON. IN ADDITION TO 45,000 TONS AS YET UNUSED FROM PRIOR WFP SHIPMENTS, THEY WILL REQUEST 100,000 TONS ADDITIONAL FROM WFP. THEY REQUEST U.S. APPROVE 50,000 TONS ALREADY REQUESTED AND SUPPLY AN ADDITIONAL 50,000 TONS UNDER TITLE II. AHMED INDICATED A COMMITMENT NOW WOULD ENABLE THEM TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PLANNING.

5. REQUEST AMEMBASSY BANGLADESH FORWARD COMMENTS TO WASHINGTON. VOLP  
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOOD ASSISTANCE  
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